

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 19146 061349Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 NIC-01 /082 W

----- 106071

P R 061140Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8920

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: THAI-NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 18976

B) SAIGON 15011

SUMMARY:

THE RTG FIRST RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM THE DRV ON NOVEMBER 30. HANOI HAS SINCE BROADCAST ITS CONTENTS IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO REBUT ELECTION CAMPAIGN CRITICISM OF NORTH VIETNAM. THE RTG WILL PROBABLY SEND A NONCOMMITTAL REPLY AND NOT ACCEDE TO DRV PRECONDITIONS. IF AND WHENEVER TALKS DO BEGIN WE CAN EXPECT THE THAI TO USE THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE AS A BARGAINING CHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. A KEY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 19146 061349Z

THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR DECEMBER 6 THAT THE THAI FOREIGN

MINISTRY BECAME AWARE OF THE LETTER FROM TRUNH TO CHARUNPHAN NOVEMBER 30. THE LETTER APPEARED AT THE THAI EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE THAT DAY, AND THE EMBASSY CABLED ITS CONTENTS TO MFA BANGKOK.

2. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE PUBLICITY INDICATED THAT THE LETTER WAS DESTINED NOT JUST FOR THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER BUT FOR THE THAI PEOPLE AS WELL. HE THUS THEORIZED THAT ONE OF HANOI'S OBJECTIVES WAS TO INFLUENCE THE THAI PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 26 JANUARY 1975. HE THOUGHT THAT, IN HANOI'S REASONING, THE LETTER WOULD SERVE AS REBUTTAL TO THOSE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION WHO CHOSE TO CRITICIZE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

3. WE REPLIED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE POLITBURO MAY WELL HAVE HAD THE THAI ELECTIONS IN MIND IN BOTH THE TIMING AND HANDLING OF THE LETTER. WE ADVANCED ANOTHER THEORY THAT THE LETTER WAS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO GIVE THE ILLUSION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE RESPONSIVENESS TO THE MANY PRESS RUMORS OVER THE RECENT MONTHS ABOUT THAI FEELERS TOWARD HANOI. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF NORTH VIETNAM SINCERELY WANTED TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THAILAND, THERE WAS LITTLE ADVANTAGE AND SOME HARM IN BROADCASTING THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER OVER RADIO HANOI.

4. WE THEN DREW ON SAIGON'S HELPFUL ANALYSIS (REF B) TO POINT OUT HOW MUCH HANOI WAS DEMANDING AND HOW IT COULD MANIPULATE THE PRECONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE PROBABLE MFA STANCE WOULD BE A NONCOMMITTAL REPLY EXPRESSING THANKS FOR THE LETTER. THE RTG WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO THE PRECONDITIONS BEFORE ENTERING INTO TALKS BUT WOULD DISCUSS HANOI'S POINTS OF VIEW AS WELL AS ITS OWN ONCE THE TWO SIDES ESTABLISHED A DIALOGUE. HE SAID THAT A CONTACT POINT WAS NECESSARY, BUT THE THAI HAVE YET TO FIND ONE.

6. THE OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT HANOI'S STANCE THAT THE LETTER WAS A REPLY TO A THAI OVERTURE WAS INCORRECT. HE IMPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH THE THAI HAD MADE DISCRETE INQUIRIES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 19146 061349Z

THERE HAD BEEN NO FORMAL APPROACH.

7. COMMENT: THE THAI ARE NOT NAIVE. THEY ARE NOT DESPERATE FOR A DIALOGUE WITH HANOI. THEY WILL NOT BE URGING OUR PROMPT MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND IN ORDER TO SNATCH AT THIS NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL-OF-THE-WISP. WHILE THERE IS SCANT PROSPECT OF EARLY TALKS WITH THE DRV, WE CAN EXPECT THAT ONCE NEGOTIATIONS DO BEGIN THE RTG MAY WELL USE ASPECTS

OF OUR PRESENCE AS A BARGAINING CHIP WITH HANOI.
MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO19146
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-0765
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741256/aaaabvpw.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BANGKOK 18976
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-NORTH VIETNAMESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, US, (TRUNH), (CHARUNPHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005